

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAR ES 00826 280847Z
ACTION NODS-00

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O 271243Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7757
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 0826

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

E.O. 11652: XGDS -2-3
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, US
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: UK-US JOINT EFFORTS

REF: A) DAR ES SALAAM 0818, B) STATE 049706

AS STATED REF A, WE BELIEVE TALKING POINTS REF B PROVIDE
APPROPRIATE WAY TO BEGIN TO RE-ENGAGE FL IN COOPERATIVE EFFORT
TO RESOLVE RHODESIA PROBLEM. IN EVENT OWEN TRIES TO MODIFY AND
WEAKEN TALKING POINTS, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT KEEP FOLLOWING
OBSERVATIONS IN MIND:

A. US AND UK HAVE DIFFERENT GOALS IN APPROACHING RHODESIA
PROBLEM, GIVING US POTENTIALLY DIFFERENT OBJECTIVES. WE DO NOT
BELIEVE BRITISH SHARE WITH US PRIMARY CONCERN ABOUT AVOIDING
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EAST-WEST CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (DAR 788), PRIMARILY
BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT IF THINGS CAME TO THAT, IT WOULD BE US,
NOT UK, MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY. WE ARE PERSUADED THAT UK'S
PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN GETTING OFF STICKLY WICKET OF THEIR UNIQUE
LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RHODESIA (LONDON 2838). THUS, BRITISH
WANT RHODESIAN LEGAL INDEPENDENCE AT LEAST AS MUCH AS THEY WANT
AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT. SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE

TO FL IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY CONSIDERING OUR GLOBAL CONCERNS.

B. FRONT LINE HAS ALWAYS HAD LIMITED ATTACHMENT TO ANY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT INCLUDING AAP. TO THEM, NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IS ONLY ONE APPROACH TO ACHIEVING MINIMUM GOAL OF ENDING RHODESIAN WHITE MINORITY RULE (SMITH AND HIS SECURITY FORCES) AND LETTING RHODESIANS CHOOSE THEIR FUTURE LEADERS. IF AAP OR ANY OTHER NEGOTIATING APPROACH NO LONGER SERVES THAT END, FL WILL TRY OTHER APPROACHES, INCLUDING FIGHTING WITH OUTSIDE SUPPORT. THUS, PRESSING FL FOR CONCESSIONS ON GETTING RID OF SMITH AND HIS SECURITY FORCES IN ORDER TO PRESERVE CHANCES FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IS IRRELEVANT CIRCULAR ARGUMENT TO FL.

C. WHILE WE MAY SEE "NEW REALITIES" IN SALISBURY "AGREEMENT" SITUATION THAT CALL FOR MODIFICATION OF AAP, FL SEES DIFFERENT SET OF "NEW REALITIES" EMERGING FROM EVENTS IN SALISBURY THAT LEADS TO DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS ABOUT NEXT STEPS. TO THEM, NEW FACTS ARE THAT AAP APPROACH TO RHODESIAN PROBLEM AND ACCOMPANYING UK/US-FL ALLIANCE UNILATERALLY BROKEN BY UK (AND MAYBE US), AND THAT NEW APPROACH SEEMS CALLED FOR THAT MIGHT WELL REQUIRE NEW ALLIES.

D. FRONT LINE HAS ALWAYS SEEN OUR ROLE IN "AP AS KEEPING

BRITISH ON COURSE AND PROVIDING NECESSARY CLOUT TO GET SOUTH AFRICANS TO GET RID OF SMITH AND HIS POWER STRUCTURE. IF BRITISH
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JUMP SHIP AND AAP DIES, FL WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED AND EVEN RESENTFUL OF WHAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER OUR MISGUIDED AND CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM FOR WORKING WITH AND TRUSTING THE BRITISH. THEY WOULD, WE BELIEVE, IN THOSE CONDITIONS REGRETFULLY AND RESENTFULLY ACCEPT THAT WE COULD NOT CONTINUE TO TRY TO IMPLEMENT AAP ALONE. WHAT THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT, AND WHAT SOME HAVE ALL ALONG FEARED, IS FOR THE US TO USE ITS POWER TO SUPPORT BRITISH DECEPTION. IF WE CANNOT BE FOR THEM, THEY WANT US NOT TO BE AGAINST THEM. FL WOULD WANT US TO STEP ASIDE AND LET THEM HAVE GO AT COLONIALISM IN RHODESIA.
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NNN

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